

# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS



NORTHEAST BALTIMORE CHAPTER  
WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE  
VOLUME IX #1 FEBRUARY/MARCH 2004  
EDITORS, DAVID BISHAI, ELIZABETH BISHAI  
TCF PHONE # 410-560-3358

**URGENT NEED! HELP BUILD OUR WEBSITE** Do you know anyone who can help our chapter construct a website? Please call Michelle 410-486-8716 or Michelle at 410 526-5956

## I Don't Know Why

I'll never know why.  
I don't have to know why.  
I don't like it.  
I don't have to like it.  
What I have to do is make a choice about my living.  
What I do want to do is accept it and go on living.  
The choice is mine.  
I can go on living, valuing every moment in a way I never did before,  
or I can be destroyed by it and, in turn, destroy others.  
I thought I was immortal.  
That my family and my children were also.  
That tragedy happened only to others.  
But I know now that life is tenuous and valuable.  
So I am choosing to go on living,  
making the most of the time I have,  
valuing my family and friends  
in a way never possible before

-Iris Bolton, from her book *My Son, My Son*  
Her son, Mitch, died by suicide

## Grief Never Ends

Grief never ends, but it changes.  
It's a passage, not a place to stay.  
The sense of loss must give way  
if we're to value the life that was lived.

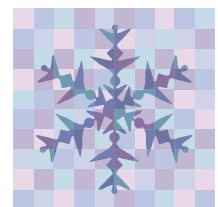
*TCF Minneapolis Newsletter*

If you have something you would like to appear in the Newsletter, send it to me by the 1st of the month.

David Bishai  
11118 Pool Rd.  
Hunt Valley, MD  
21030  
dbishai@jhu.edu

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

to help keep the group going  
call Michelle Backe  
410-486-8716 or  
Michelle Pooner  
410-526-5956



## Our Children Remembered

Anniversaries and Birthdays are difficult times for bereaved parents, but... As long as we live, they too shall live for they are part of us in our memories. In the days ahead, we lovingly remember these children, and we send our love and support to their parents.

Joshua Peter Backe                    3/13/99  
 Parents: Michelle & Pete  
 Charles Martin Barr                3/19/80  
 Mother: Carmel J Snow  
 Brendan Baynes                    3/21/94-4/8/94  
 Parents: Sheila & Kevin  
 Jasmine Bishai                    2/23/94-9/17/96  
 Parents: Annie & David  
 Christian Horchler                3/8/91-5/9/91  
 Parents: Gabe & Joani  
 Halley Alexandra Lambert        7/27/92-2/10/93  
 Mother: Christina Woodard  
 Elizabeth Rachel Volz            2/9/89-2/18/89

### *PRESIDENTS*

*In 1813 John Adams learned of the death of his granddaughter Louisa Catherine Adams, who had been born while her father John Quincy Adams was in Russia one year earlier. He wrote this letter to console his son:*

While you and I believe that the whole system is under the constant and vigilant direction of a wisdom infinitely more discerning than ours and a benevolence of the whole and to us in particular greater even than our own self love, we have the highest consolation that reason can suggest or imagination conceive. The same general laws that at times afflict us are in your neighborhood bereaving millions of their fathers, brothers, and sons and millions more of their food and their shelter. In our own country of how many deprivations do we read, and how many savage cruelties. What ground have we to expect or to hope to be excepted from the general lot...Sorrow can make no alternative, afford no relief to the departed, to survivors or to ourselves.

***Love Gifts***— a monetary donation to our chapter lovingly given by family or friends in honor of a child who has died. Love gifts help to maintain our newsletter and mailing.

Postage donated in loving memory of **Andrew Robert Ritchie** grandparents— Margery and William

In memory of **Jimmy Ghannad** on the 35th anniversary of his birthday, January 7, A donation is given by his mother, Heidi Sharizi.

Phone Friends— If you need someone to talk to, we are here.

Michelle Backe 410-486-8716  
 Michelle Pooner 410-526-5956  
 Kate Gehr 410-444-4998

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Creative Memories* is an ideal way to assemble a memory album of our children. Getting together with other TCF parents may make this easier to do. If you are interested in participating in a *Creative Memories* evening or want more info call 410-560-3358.

## MEETING SCHEDULE

### Northeast Baltimore Chapter Meeting

First Wednesday 7:30 pm  
 March 3, 2004  
 April 7, 2004

### **Brown Memorial Church, 6200 N Charles Street Towson**

Directions: Beltway to Exit #25 Charles Street; South on Charles St approximately 2 miles to church on the right, directly across from 7-11

For information on other area chapter meetings please call 410-560-3358 or visit The Compassionate Friends online.

## THEIR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

On Presidents Day remember these parents and their children.

Each child listed here died before their parents.

*Compiled by David Bishai*

### **John & Abigail Adams** parents of

**Susanna Adams** 12/28/1768-2/4/1770  
**Charles Adams** 5/29/1770-11/30/1800

### **Thomas & Martha Jefferson** parents of

**Jane Randolph Jefferson** 4/3/1774 -9/1775  
**(SON) Jefferson** 5/28/1777-6/14/1777  
**Mary "Polly" Jefferson** 8/1/1778 -4/17/1804  
**Lucy Elizabeth Jefferson** 11/3/1780-4/15/1781  
**Lucy Elizabeth Jefferson (II)** 5/8/1782-11/17/1785

### **James & Elizabeth Monroe** parents of

**(SON)** 5/1799-9/28/1801

### **John Quincy & Louisa Adams** parents of

**George Washington Adams** 4/13/1801-4/30/1829  
**John Adams** 7/4/1803 -10/23/1834  
**Louisa Catherine Adams** 1811-1812

### **Martin & Hannah Van Buren** parents of

**Martin Van Buren** 12/20/1812-3/19/1855

### **William & Anna Harrison** parents of

**John Harrison** 1798-1830  
**Lucy Harrison** 1800-1826  
**William Harrison** 1802-1838  
**Benjamin Harrison** 1806-1840  
**Carter Harrison** 1811-1839  
**James Harrison** 1814-1817

### **John & Letitia Tyler** parents of

**Mary Tyler** 4/15/1815-6/17/1848  
**Letitia Tyler** 5/11/1821-5/1/1850  
**Elizabeth Tyler** 7/11/1823-6/1/1850  
**Anne Tyler** 4/1825-7/1825  
**Alice Tyler** 3/23/1827-6/8/1854

### **Zachary & Margaret Taylor** parents of

**Sarah Taylor** 3/6/1814 -9/15/1835  
**Octavia Taylor** 8/16/1816-7/8/1820  
**Margaret Taylor** 7/27/1819-10/22/1820

### **Millard & Abigail Fillmore** parents of

**Mary Abigail Fillmore** 3/27/1832-7/26/1854

### **Franklin & Jane Pierce** parents of

**Franklin Pierce** 2/2/1836-2/5/1836  
**Frank Robert Pierce** 8/27/1839-11/14/1843  
**Benjamin Pierce** 4/13/1841-1/6/1853

### **Abraham & Mary Lincoln** parents of

**Edward Baker Lincoln** 3/10/1846-2/1/1850  
**William Wallace Lincoln** 12/21/1850-2/20/1862

### **Andrew & Eliza Johnson** parents of

**Charles Johnson** 2/19/1830-4/4/1863  
**Robert Johnson** 2/22/1834-4/22/1869

### **Rutherford & Lucy Hayes** parents of

**Joseph Thompson Hayes** 12/21/1861-6/24/1863  
**George Crook Hayes** 9/29/1864-5/24/1866  
**Manning Force Hayes** 8/1/1873-8/28/1874

### **James & Lucretia Garfield** parents of

**Eliza Arabella "Trot" Garfield** 7/3/1860 -12/3/1863  
**Edward Garfield** 12/25/1874-10/25/1876

### **Chester & Ellen Arthur** parents of

**William Lewis Arthur** 12/10/1860-7/7/1863

### **Grover & Frances Cleveland** parents of

**Ruth "Baby Ruth" Cleveland** 10/3/1891-1/7/04

### **William & Ida Mckinley** parents of

**Katherine Mckinley** 1/25/1872-7/25/1875  
**Ida Mckinley** 3/31/1873-8/22/1873

### **Calvin & Grace Coolidge** parents of

**Calvin Coolidge Jr.** 4/13/08-7/7/24

### **Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt** parents of

**Franklin Roosevelt Jr.** 3/18/09-11/8/09

### **Dwight & Mamie Eisenhower** parents of

**Dwight Doud Eisenhower** 9/24/17-1/2/20

### **John & Jacqueline Kennedy** parents of

**Patrick Kennedy** 8/7/63-8/9/63

### **George & Barbara Bush** parents of

**Robin Bush** 12/20/49-10/11/53

### The Promise of Spring

When February comes, there is finally an end in sight to the long winter. Sometimes melting snow reveals green tips of an early crocus or even the exquisite blossom itself, a soft flower of hope invading a harsh landscape of graying snow and biting wind and ominous sky—a small promise of new life to come.

My heart, grieving for my son who died, was like that image of winter. For somehow, even during the darkest, coldest moments, an unexpected sign of hope would intrude. And as the hours and months dragged on, my heart finally learned once again to be open to the promise of new life. Painful memories melted into loving ones. Life that seemed forever dormant once again sprang forth from my heart.

In living hopefully and lovingly, the season of the heart can change. The loving memories of your child, like the flower in the snow, can be the beginning of the end of winter.

-Maryann Kramer TCG, Arlington Heights, IL

### Ashley

When I think of Ashley, I think of all the good times. And some of the stupid little fights that we had. Maybe those fights used to feel dumb but now I miss them. I love and will always hang on to the good times. My biggest fear is that I will forget her. If I don't think I'm going to remember, I dig out old memories. I think of her death sometimes as we're sledding down a hill, which is our life, and the sled is getting faster to the end of her life, or the bottom of the hill, but my sled isn't going as fast as hers. I know she can see me, but I can't see her. I hear her calling my name, but no words are coming out of my mouth to call her. This is how I sometimes feel.

--Hannah Childs

